WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 14, NUMBER 7 | THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION | NOVEMBER 2003

The Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace endorses Laura Ware and TJ Johnson for Olympia City Council, and Sarah Jewett for Mayor of Olympia.

The unanimous vote was taken during our October 22 meeting.

OMJP supports Ware, Johnson, and Jewett because the values and principles they have expressed are most consistent with OMJP's mission. Several of the campaigns that we are involved with at the national level - government accountability to it's citizens, the movement to use taxpayer dollars to support people's needs rather than corporate or military objectives, and the struggle for open, transparent government rather than secrecy and obfuscation - are eerily mirrored at the local level during this election cycle.

OMJP endorses Ware, Johnson, and Jewett because they have called for a public vote on the multi-million dollar conference center, because they have consistently supported efforts to protect Olympia's environmental resources, and because <u>they have demonstrated a willingness to listen to the populace rather than dictate priorities to us.</u>

About the Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace:

OMJP formed in September, 2001, following the catastrophic events of September 11. A broad coalition of educators, students, activists, and community members coalesced to oppose war, as well as the existing social, political, and economic structures and inequities that breed terrorist ideologies, and are destructive toward peoples and the environment. We actively support movements that challenge corporate-sponsored globalization, and those that further racial, gender and economic equality. Our efforts are focused on working in solidarity and in coalition with individuals and groups on a local, regional, [illegible], and global level.

OMJP meetings are every second and fourth Wednesday of the month at the Olympia Community Center. www.omjp.org

Our Future: Bigger Jails or Something Better?

Glen Anderson

Should Thurston County pay $100 million to build a gigantic new jail and pay huge amounts every year to operate it? Or are there better ways to meet our needs?

While the county was developing this scheme, it did almost nothing to consult the public's wisdom about whether we want more jail space or better alternatives. When the new tax proposal goes onto the ballot in 2004, we will be pressured to vote yes because no alternatives were offered.

<u>Look at the realities we see around us:</u>

* The United States puts a larger percentage of our population in jail or prison than any other nation on earth.
* Many of the same people go to jail over and over. The jail's revolving door is proof that simply jailing people does not work.
* Jails are evidence of underlying personal and social problems. Jail does not solve the underlying problems.
* Budgets for mental health and social services are being slashed, but budgets for jails and prisons keep increasing.
* Jails are like closets. The more space we have, the more stuff we'll fill them up with. If we build a gigantic new jail, we'll fill it up again in a few years.
* The current policies and priorities clearly are <u>not</u> working, but federal, state and local governments just keep proposing more of the same.
* Voters and taxpayers resist such tunnel vision. They don't want to pay for it, and they know we can do better.

When I continually observe these realities, I feel frustrated, because I know we can do better. I also feel agony for our fellow citizens who have problems that are not getting solved and needs that are not being met.

(continued page 10)

Thursday, October 16 2003
Olympia, Washington

Numerous complaints from at least 14 eyewitnesses led Lt. Jim Costa of the Olympia Police Department to conclude Tuesday that Olympia Motorcycle Officer Ed Dawson pushed Lynne Stockwell, a pedestrian, with the front wheel of his motorcycle on March 20th of this year.

Complaints against other officers were not sustained, according to Lt. Costa.

Officer Dawson had pushed Stockwell out of Capitol Way, because he claimed she was intentionally blocking traffic. She said she was acting as a traffic guard for demonstrators against the Iraq War, 500 of whom were demonstrating in front of the Capitol Campus during the incident.

John Regan, Stockwell's friend, was arrested after he imposed himself between the police motorcycle and its original target. Officer Paul Bakala threw Regan to the ground and later arrested him; the picture ran on the front page of the Olympian the next day. Police used pepper spray and bicycles to escape the angry people who surrounded them after Regan was thrown.

Lt Costa said his report, which has not yet been redacted for public release and will not be available until November 1st, was based on a low standard of proof known as preponderance of the evidence. He simply had more reports of Dawson's actions than could be dismissed or explained away.

Eleven police officers wrote reports on the incident, just a few of them claiming to have seen the initial confrontation between Lynne Stockwell and Officer Dawson. None of the Olympia Police Officers admitted that they saw Dawson push Stockwell with his motorcycle. Several, including Dawson, asserted specifically that he did not.

It had not yet been decided Thursday what disciplinary action would be taken against Officer Dawson. Lt Costa explained that the City Attorney, Bob Sterbank, would first have to sign off on the report. The report would then go to the Patrol Commander, Lt Steve Nelson, for his review. If he agreed, the matter would go to the Chief and then come back down to the specific supervisor, for action. Sergeant James Partin was the motorcycle supervisor on duty, and had supported his officers' actions in his report on the matter.

Drew Hendricks
Olympia Copwatch

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions:

Correspondence, articles, art, and photographs are always welcome. Please, when possible, put articles on a 3.5" IBM-compatible disk (text preferred) or via e-mail. Artwork and photos should be camera-ready/ black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number.

Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress, it's because you aren't writing about it! Or you aren't submitting it!

Send submissions to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295, <wip@olywa.net>

Back Issues:

Get your catalog of indexed WIPs below. Some back issues are available in the Timberland Library system. WIP is being archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

WORKERS IN PROGRESS

Dave Campbell	Sandy Mayes
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Sebastian Chase	Jeff Sowers
Renee Cruickshank	Sylvia Smith
Megan Davis	Pat Tassoni
Teresa Jennings	Robert Ross
Jerome Johnson	Drew Hendricks
Kayden	Tom Chenhall
Margaret Love	Jenni Minner

Mission Statement:

"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. Works In Progress is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause:

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Governing Tool:

The following statement will become part of the Editorial Policy and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: *WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:

Friday, November 21st

WIP Meeting
Call 956-1168 for more info

Works In Progress
PO Box 295 Olympia, WA 98507
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Announcements, etc.

Jose "Chencho" Alas to speak:

7:00 PM, Wednesday, November 5

"Mesoamerica Peace Project for Central America and Theology of Peace

Radio Ranch, 3102 8th Avenue NE - Olympia

Chencho who helped bring Liberation Theology to El Salvador in the 1970s and 1980s is working with Indigenous spirituality, Jewish and Christian traditions to allow people to develop a spiritual framework to evaluate and respond to injustice and institutional violence. He has held 14 workshops in Central and North America. A number have focused on a response and alternative to Plan Puebla Panama – a plan for super highway, dams and sweatshop development from Mexico to Panama. One workshop will be held on the Swinomish Reservation near La Conner, WA on November 7-9th. These workshops will develop a peacebuilders manual and train people to be peacemakers. **Current efforts are focused on developing a text on Earth and Ecology for the grass roots peacemaking manual and consolidating the peacemaking network.**

For more information or questions: Bob Zeigler at 570-0848

The Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition Presents: MEDIA TRAINING

Learn the tricks of the trade. How to speak to: radio reporters, print reporters, television reporters, community groups, and legislators. Write a letter to the editor & much more.

Saturday, November 1st

10:00 – 2:00 The United Church 110 11TH AVE. SE (Across from the Capital Campus) Room #106

Lunch & childcare will be provided. Please RSVP So we have enough food and childcare providers. Call WROC: 352-9716

Green Party Event

Wed November 19, 2003
5:30pm

Green Party of South Puget Sound General Members Potluck Celebration Dinner & Election of incoming GPoSPS officers. We will also recognize volunteers and helpers in the recent campaigns. First Christian Church downtown Olympia. Bring a friend if you like. Questions please call 433-4556.

BEFORE YOU FORGET, GET INVOLVED! (SEE BELOW)

SOUTH SOUND GREEN PAGES
South Sound's Monthly Environmental Newspaper

Green Pages is a forum for individuals and organizations concerned about the integrity of our environment and the quality of life in our community.

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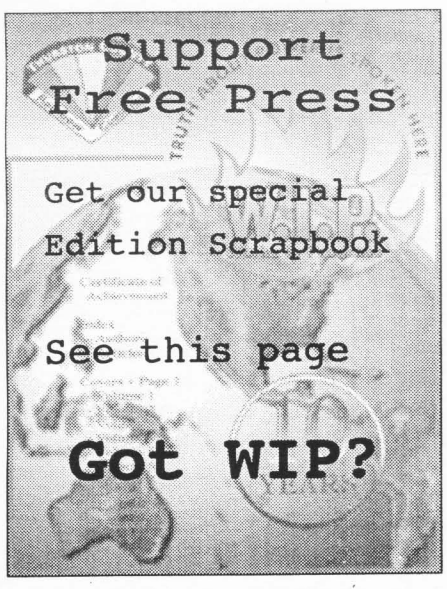

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NOVEMBER 2003

On Labor Day weekend Darigold owner WestFarm locked out its employees at Seattle-area Darigold plants. The company then brought in replacement workers from Idaho in a blatant attempt to break the union.

Darigold boycott continues

Sources: *Journal Business Reporter*

Photo: Kenny Dean

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
All that harms labor is treason to America. Abraham Lincoln	*The economic model that Local 66 follows and has followed for thirty years is the grocery model, i.e. Safeway, Associated Grocers, Supervalu. For over a generation, our members employed by WFF have received the same economic package Teamsters have received at those employers...*					**1** 2002: Bush designates 13 areas to protect FL Manatees; fails to protect high watercraft-related death areas
2 1999: Study shows Hanford workers have significant health risks 2002: Eli Moreno w/ "Slumlord of the Year"	**3** 1883: Supreme Court rules Native-americans are aliens 1896: Idaho grants full suffrage to women	**4** 2002: Seattle teen is thrown of Scouts refusing belief in god 2002: Unmanned US plane kills 6 al-Qaida	**5** 1998: Lacey Council restricts panhandling 2002: Swedish official condemns Predator attack in Yemen	**6** 1998: Newt Gingrich won't run for reelection 2002: WA's home-care workers union gains pay raise of $2	**7** 2001: Tim Sheldon to remain a Democrat 2001: Locke exempts 96% of those on welfare from 5-year cutoff	**8** 1999: Suit claims overcrowded county jail puts workers at risk 2002: UN demands Iraq let inspectors back
9 2002: One million in Italy protest globalization /US policy in Iraq 2002: Bush oks war plan w/ 250,000 troops	**10** 2002: Daschle supports Homeland Security bill 2002: Moreno's attorney claims Forest Glen repairs on schedule	**11** 1998: Clinton orders build up in Persian Gulf 1999: WTO opponents launch $40,000 outdoor ad campaign in Seattle	**12** 2002: For 11th year in year in a row, UN passes resolution encouraging US to end the embargo of Cuba	**13** 2002: Iraq agrees to weapons inspectors 2002: House passes bill to create the Homeland Security Dept	**14** 2002: FBI warns of large al-Qaida attack 2002: Bush plans to job out half of all federal civilian jobs	**15** 2002: Wa He Lut Indian School celebrate Nisqually pasture land returned to salt water estuary
16 1900: Black teenager burned at stake in CO 2000: Coke pays $190 million to settle racial discrimination suit	**17** 1948: England nationalizes steel industry 2002: Tom Ridge down plays the recent terror alert	**18** 1618: VA colony governor removed: policies included imprisonment for those who didn't attend church	**19** 2002: Senate passes the Homeland Security bill 2002: Congress shields insurance industry from cost terror attacks	**20** 2002: Bush claims Iraq lies if it denies weapons of mass destruction 2002: Eli Moreno fails to meet repair deadline	**21** 1995: Dow Jones goes over 5000, new record 2002: Canadian Prime Minister Chretien insists Bush isn't moron	**22** 2002: Homeland Security Bill is sent to Bush 2002: Survey shows 1 in 10 WA residents lack health insurance
23 1998: Dow Jones sets record close at 9,374 2001: Coast Guard captures drifting oil tanker off WA coast	**24** 2002: Environmental group reveals buried military weapons to be US's largest environmental mess	**25** 2002: Bush wants to eliminate NW national forests from needing to prove timber sales safe for salmon	**26** 2002: Women are now equal to men in number of AIDS infections 2002: Canadian moron namer resigns	**27** 1998: State Theater reopened by Harlequin 2001: 600 still detained by fed. government; few details given	**28** 1999: International labor leaders warn the WTO its facing its demise if it does not address workers' rights	**29** 2002: Glen Forest owner Eli Moreno won't be fined for failing to correct 550 plus code violations
30 2002: Army admits it turned off monitor alarms at Umatilla Chemical Depot in OR during test burns	*...Contrary to what WFF negotiators claim, Safeway, Associated Grocers and Supervalu are in the food industry. The company would like to make a wage comparison apparently to McDonalds and Burger King. We think there is no basis for that type of comparison.* **Mark Jones, Teamsters Local 66**					**An injury to one is the concern of all.** Knights of Labor

Oral History of Anna Schlecht, Part 2: Supporting Each Other

Transcribed and edited by Megan Davis

Olympian Anna Schlecht has played many roles in the struggle for social justice, although she is probably best known for her persevering gay civil rights work. What follows is an oral history series from excerpts of a '99 interview at Ben Moore's downtown, when, tape recorder rolling, she talked about the political work she does and the local activist community we share. This is the second part of a four-part series.

(Megan) If there was one thing you could say to the activist community of Olympia, what would it be?
Social justice communities would deeply benefit from building more mutual respect and support for the many ways that we do our work and live our lives. Injustice happens so many diverse ways, so many diverse places that our responses need to reflect that diversity. Some of us like public hearings, some of us like direct actions. We all have such different skills and experiences. It seems that we in leftist activist communities have a tendency to say, "My political work is more important than yours." I know there are times that I get on my high horse and think that my work is the best. But what really excites me is to see different people in my community doing lots of different kinds of political work, and to feel a part of that continuum.

"One of the things I see a lot of on the left is we spend a lot of time criticizing and discounting each other's work."

It enriches my work and expands my political horizons to work with different people - that's how I learn, that's what keeps it fresh. It would be really arrogant to say I'm bored of working with my own kind. That's not what I'm saying. But I already know what I think. I know what I do and I know my own approach.

I feel very honored to have been asked to join the board of a group called CIELO. It's a Hispanic community organization. It's one of my more recent experiences working with people who share some similarities in values and views, but also reflect a lot of difference in where we come from in the world. It's an incredible opportunity to listen to how other people view effective political action, and how to respond to community need and build community resources to meet those needs. Now, that's a healthy way to work.

I come out of a Jewish working class tradition. My Dad would always tell us "if you don't work twice as hard as them, they'll bury you." I was raised to do everything like my life depended on it, *[laughs]* so I'm not very humane to myself all the time. If I'm not respecting myself, it's nearly impossible to respect somebody else's needs and humanity. But if we want to have societies that are based on respecting diversity and all people, then it's essential to recognize that we must conduct our political work with that same principle. We have to work inside the reality that we seek to create. And hopefully, have fun doing it.

I think that's a critical thing for political activists - to support each other's work. Because, you know, a lot of people out there don't! *[laughing]* We do this work under such duress, and we don't get a lot of support from the broader society.

(Megan) What do you mean exactly, when you say supporting and respecting each other?

I mean treating your political colleagues the way you would treat somebody who you really admire, as opposed to somebody you take for granted. It's respecting an activist even if you don't totally understand what they're doing, you appreciate the fact that they're doing it. It just lights up my life when people come up to me and say, "I've seen you do a lot of different things and I really respect your work." It's like, whoa! That's so nice! *[she laughs]* Because I get that so rarely.

It's the way that people build community with their friends, to show respect and support and caring for the people they hold dear, and to try to find the same for themselves. The activists who I admire the most and think are most effective are people who incorporate that into all parts of their lives. That alone is a very important political act.

We may be activists but we are still human beings. It's important to recognize the fact that as activists we might be busting our guts to defend affirmative action, or to build a Hispanic community center, but we're also human beings who are struggling to overcome personal oppression. Especially in oppressed communities, people have to cope with hideous things. I mean, my god, someone in my family was murdered by anti-gay bigots. And my family's reaction to it was just awful. I've actually cut ties with my family as a result of all that. And that's just dealing with external oppression.

Then, on the inside, we internalize the oppression against us. We learn to hate ourselves for being gay or African-American, or female or whatever we are. I think of people who struggle to love themselves and to be happy in spite of the racism or homophobia they face - those struggles are political issues too. In gay organizing, there are many gay youth who are living right on the razor edge of suicide who join gay civil rights groups. People don't see that - we're not just dancing naked on the back of flat bed trucks in gay pride parades or promoting gay rights legislation, we are dealing with people who have been thrown out by their parents, have been sexually assaulted and attacked violently on the streets. That's the reality. That's not a political, abstract concept. These are real human beings who have been damaged, and supporting them is not a neat and tidy job that starts at promptly at 7:00 and then ends at 9:00 when the meeting adjourns.

And then on the personal level, in terms of family dynamics, many of us were children who were raised without love, abused and taught to hate ourselves. We're raised to believe that we are stupid, ugly or just plain bad. Once that self-hate is internalized, it can be taken out on others. There is a tendency on the political left to externalize those feelings of self loathing onto other people. We all know activists who spend way too much time discounting the people around them. But in activist communities, these people are like our chosen family, the people we should love and support. Maybe we don't consider our activist friends our chosen family, but they're the people we spend a lot of time with. How we treat each other matters.

One of my biggest challenges as an activist, and for activists anywhere, is that we don't spend a whole lot of time looking at how we do our work. We don't look at what our work does for us, how we mature as activists and human beings. We don't talk to each other about the very personal process of being an activist and the very public results of what we do.

Right now I am really burned out. But I think that a wonderful cure for burnout would be to make the time to talk about our work with other activists, to do the kind of thing that you're doing [like this interview series of other activists]. To really talk to each other, to really listen to each other. Our work can't just be about, "How do we get there? What are the obstacles? Get 'em out of the way. On your mark, get set, go!" But to spend the time talking about, "What does this work mean to you?" or "Out of what cultural tradition do you come to this work? What work were you doing before? What things did you learn about that, and what mistakes did you make? And, "What's your idea? Tell me more about why you want to hold this kind of event and focus it on this kind of issue, because I don't understand it." You know, those are the kinds of things that I would find really rejuvenating.

One of the things I've been mulling over is what happened with the Liberation Café. The Liberation Café was an organization to create kind of a social setting for people to hear speakers and to network with other activists and just to build community. It started off as a wonderful thing, and disintegrated on very unfriendly, disrespectful terms. And it seemed to me, as an outsider who talked with a broad range of the people involved, it sound like part of what caused it to disintegrate is that the Cafe wasn't based on mutual respect. I think that there's a real generational gap between people who are Baby Boomer generation who were involved in anti-Vietnam War work, and younger or "generation x" activists. Younger activists such as yourself, you come from a different world that we don't really understand, at all. It's not necessarily good or bad - It's just a fact.

"Social justice communities would deeply benefit from building more mutual respect and support for the many ways that we do our work and live our lives."

(Megan)° Well, you guys actually went through a period where you felt like there was a revolution starting, and you were going to win. Everything was quite possible. And people of my generation just don't have that experience. We grew up during Reagan.

And you, from the very beginning of your ability to formulate thoughts, [there was] the very strong likelihood that the entire earth will be obliterated. My generation didn't face that till later. My own generation cut their teeth with public leaders who seemed they were really gonna make a difference. And then the shadow of a nuclear holocaust started to fall long and hard across the entire political landscape. It became a different world.

Older activists grew up with a lot more hope, in some ways. But also a lot of really bad, outdated attitudes that we're not willing to admit or look at. You know, as anti-racist, anti-classist, anti-sexist as different ones of us think we are, we come from parents who were just Neanderthals. God love 'em. Wonderful people. But it takes a while to overcome the traditions of homophobia, sexism, racism or classism - depending on where you come from. It takes time to overcome those hideous habits of oppression. Your generation is really a transition generation, where a lot of you, from the beginning of your ability to look at the world, were given the opportunity to really think for yourself.

(Megan) So is a lack of respect across the generation gap the main cause you saw for the disintegration of the Liberation Café?

I think so. I think it'd be incredibly valuable for people to write and talk about it. I know that when I talked to some older activists what I heard was, "Yeah, those kids don't respect their elders." And that's a part of it. But you know, it's really demoralizing for someone like you who's having problems in a group to hear, "You should respect your elders, dammit! Shut up and put up." We older activists don't always extend the same respect to younger activists.

You have a whole different set of tools we don't even understand. I think that we're more honest with our own children, than we are with younger activists we work with. There are different ability levels, your generation was born into the computer age. You know, it's like my parents' generation, they couldn't do math with us. There are abilities and skills and resources that you folks have, and we don't even know what they are.

One of the things I see a lot of on the left is we spend a lot of time criticizing and discounting each other's work. The generation gap is what I've seen play out the most in this community, where

young activists typically are more radical, and typically less experienced, and inclined to do some wild things that sometimes work out really well, and other times blow up. *[laughing]* I think that older activists tend to want to plan things out a little bit more. They have more experience to draw on, thinking "Well, if we try this, that could happen. If we do this or this, we can be assured of successful results."

I don't know any political geniuses that have the PERFECT strategy, and if they did we'd be done with all this by now. Wouldn't it be great if we could support, listen, and be there for each other as a community when things go wrong instead of saying, "Well, you fucked up. You wasted everybody's time doing whatever bone-headed thing you just did." I think taking a couple wild potshots now and then is the only thing that's really moved us forward.

There's a tendency among white activists to idealize and generalize about communities of color. But one significant difference in gay activist communities is that the youth and elders are not related to each other. In communities of color, there are a lot of people that work together who are related to each other, or know each others families or often have a sense of extended family between generations of activists. This familiar relationship breeds both the good and bad parts of a family relationship - and there can be a lot of bad things with that - but also that [feeling] of, "We need each other to be whole." Are there ways that we as a progressive community can build that mutual respect?

Next month... Part 3: Movement Work, Campaign Work

Re-elect Laura Ware

Sandy Mayes

For eight years, Laura Ware has served on the Olympia City Council as a bold advocate of local grassroots interests. On November 4, she will be challenged at the polls by a well-financed opponent whose campaign is supported largely by big business, developers, bankers and the police guild. [See the October issue of Works In Progress.]

While Ware is only one of three progressive candidates running for council positions, as an incumbent with a track record of standing with the people, she, in particular, has been singled-out for unjustified public attacks by our local corporate newspaper – most recently in the form of an endorsement of her opponent.

On the op-ed page of October 23, The Olympian declared Sandra Miller as its chosen candidate for Olympia City Council Position 2. The case for Miller is made largely by attempting to diminish Ware; yet, the complaints leveled at Ware do not hold up under scrutiny.

The Olympian writes:

Ware is a divisive and acrimonious voice on the council. She has used profanity and sunk to the level of personal attack against a colleague. She told Mayor Stan Biles he would not have to live with the consequences of his conference center decision because he's moving to Oregon.

Divisive or democratic?

While there have been a number of local issues which have compelled Ware to stand up to the council majority on behalf of the *citizen* majority, the conference center, the hotbed issue of this election, is a perfect case in point. From the very beginning, Ware has expressed serious reservations about the project and has consistently argued for giving the people a say in the matter.

Two polls, one conducted by The Olympian and one by the citizen group Public Funds for Public Purposes, indicate that roughly 80% of the people living in Olympia are either opposed to the conference center or, at the very least, want it put to a vote.

Nevertheless, the "Fab Five" on the council have bull-headedly plowed forward with the massively flawed project. Laura Ware and Matthew Green have stood alone in challenging this scheme and advocating for a public vote.

For this, and numerous other occasions on which Ware found it necessary to stand up to her fellow council members on behalf of the citizenry, The Olympian has consistently characterized her as "divisive". Contrary to this claim and her opponent's facile accusation that "it's easy to simply vote no", Laura Ware has, in fact, been eminently principled and resolute in executing her role as a representative of the people.

Dirty words or dirty pool?

Two years ago, Laura Ware played a profoundly instrumental mediating role in bringing downtown business owners, homeless advocates, and concerned citizens to the table to hammer out workable solutions to their perceived conflicting interests. The Olympian and other council members had already sided with the business association.

So when, at one council meeting, Ware stated that we really need to get past "this shit" and start working together, The Olympian launched a full-scale attack. Rather than place her words in context, or even cite *what* those words were, The Olympian simply declared (in two separate editorials) that Ware had engaged in an unforgivable use of profanity and charged her with incivility.

In all her eight years on the City Council, this was the singular occasion on which Ware used what might be considered "profanity". Then, as now, The Olympian's maneuver was an obvious attempt to obfuscate the issues while smearing a public servant with whom they disagree.

Personal attacks vs. statement of fact

While, themselves, engaging in *truly* personal attacks such as that described above, The Olympian absurdly mischaracterizes direct statement of fact as somehow constituting "a personal attack on a colleague." It is simple fact that Mayor Stan Biles *is* retiring from the council and moving out of state. Ware was quite correct and indeed astute in pointing out that, unlike other council members, Biles will *not* have to live with the consequences of his decision to move forward with the hugely unpopular conference center.

What about Matthew Green?

Council member Matthew Green was

(continued page 11)

Project Censored's Annual List

The "Top Ten Censored Stories"

4. Rumsfeld's Plan to Provoke Terrorists

Source: CounterPunch (11/1/02)

Moscow Times columnist and CounterPunch contributor Chris Floyd developed this story off a small item in the LA Times in October 2002 about secret armies the Pentagon has been developing around the world. "The Pro-active, Preemptive Operations Group (or "Pee-Twos') will carry out secret missions designed to 'stimulate reactions' among terrorist groups, provoking them into committing violent acts which would then expose them to 'counterattack' by US forces," Floyd wrote. "The Pee-Twos will thus come in handy whenever the Regime hankers to add a little oil-laden real estate or a new military base to the Empire's burgeoning portfolio. Just find a nest of violent malcontents, stir 'em with a stick, and presto: instant justification for whatever level of intervention-conquest-raping that you might desire."

Floyd notes that while the story received considerable play in international and alternative media, it has hardly been mentioned in the mainstream US press.

"At first glance, this decided lack of interest might seem a curious reaction, given the American media's insatiable — and profitable — obsession with terrorism," he told Project Censored. "But the media's equally intense abhorrence of moral ambiguity — especially when it involves possible American complicity in mayhem and murder — makes the silence easier to understand."

5. The Effort to Make Unions Disappear

Sources: Z Magazine, (11/20/02), War Times (10/11 2002), The Progressive (11/03), The American Prospect (3/03)

The war on terrorism has also had the convenient side benefit for conservatives of making it easier for employers and the government to suppress organized labor in the name of national security. For example, in October 2002 Bush was able to force striking International Longshore and Warehouse Union members back to work in the San Francisco Bay Area in the name of national safety.

Chicago journalist Lee Sustar noted that labor coverage is usually woefully inadequate in the mainstream media, even though union membership, while shrinking, still makes up a national constituency 13 million strong.

"Twenty years ago every paper had a beat reporter on labor who knew what was going on," he said. "Today that's not the case. Besides a token story on Labor Day or a human-interest story here and there, you don't see coverage of labor. You only see coverage from the business side." said Sustar, Although Steven Greenhouse, the labor reporter for the New York Times is one obvious exception to Sustar's claim.

Ann Marie Cusac, whose story for The Progressive about the decimation of unions was cited, said she thinks the position of organized labor is worse than it has ever been.

She combed National Labor Relations Board files for egregious examples of the lengths to which employers will go to bust unions. And she found a lot. "They had a woman with carpal tunnel syndrome pulling nails out of boards above her head, because they wanted her to go on disability so she couldn't organize," she said. "But she did it, even knowing she might disable herself. The willingness of people to sacrifice, because they know how important it is to unionize, is a sign of hope."

6. Closing Access to Information Technology

Source: Dollars and Sense (9/02)

The potential closing of access to digital information is a development that could have a harmful effect on the powerful role online media plays in side stepping media gate keepers and keeping people better informed. "The FCC and Congress are currently overturning the public-interest rules that have encouraged the expansion of the Internet up until now," writes Arthur Stamoulis, whose story was published in Dollars and Sense.

The Internet currently provides a buffet of independent and international media sources to counter the mostly homogenous offerings of mainstream US media, especially broadcast.

As the shift to broadband gains momentum, cable companies are trying hard to dominate the market, and eventually control access.

In 2002 the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) decided to allow cable networks to avoid common carrier requirements. Now the giant phone companies, who offer the competitive DSL services, want the same freedoms to control access to their lines. In the long run, instead of the thousands of small ISP services to choose from, the switch from dial-up to broadband means that users will have less and less choice over who provides their internet access.

While the media finally woke up and gave significant coverage to the recent public rebellion against the FCC, which voted to increase media concentration even further, there has been scant coverage to the problem that the Internet as we now it might be lost.

Look for the rest of ***Project Censored's*** *Top 10 Censored Stories of 2003 in next months issue of* ***Works In Progress.***

7. Treaty Busting By the United States

8. US/British Forces Continue Use of Depleted Uranium Weapons Despite Massive Evidence of Negative Health Effects

9. In Afghanistan: Poverty, Women's Rights and Civil Disruption Worse then Ever

10. Africa Faces New Threat of New Colonialism

Patriot Act Watch

Resisting the Patriot Act

Howard Rosenfeld

[Last minute update: the Olympia City Council unanimously passed a resolution against the Patriot Act on Tuesday October 28th, 2003. -WIP]

According to the ACLU website, 200 communities and municipalities in America have passed resolutions condemning the Patriot Act, supporting civil liberties (as of 10/22/2003). In Washington State, the list includes Bainbridge Island, Bellingham, Jefferson County, Oroville, Port Townsend, Riverside, San Juan County, Seattle, Snoqualmie, Tonasket, and Vashon-Maury Island.

"There are dozens of other communities around the country where resolutions against the Patriot Act are being spiritedly debated."

Clallum and King Counties and the City of Olympia have anti-Patriot Act resolutions underway and a recent forum at the Port Angeles Public Library drew 200 people. The largest city to be included in this list since the last WIP is Chicago, however, the original Chicago resolution was watered-down after U.S. attorney Patrick Fitzgerald (remember this guy; initially appointed to his post ~~by John Ashcroft, I predict a larger role~~ for him in the Justice Department) vocalized objections to the resolution. There are dozens of other communities around the country where resolutions against the Patriot Act are being spiritedly debated, as a search on Google illustrated (using "Patriot Act").

I included a link to the Bill of Rights Defense Committee last month. This group is very busy helping to organize local communities to fight the Patriot Act at the grassroots level. The addition of the BORDC in creating a broad grassroots movement against the Patriot Act will only strengthen the overall movement already underway. They recently convened a national conference titled "Grassroots America Defends the Bill of Rights," which was held the weekend of Oct. 18th and 19th 2003, in Silver Springs, Md. Check out their site again – it has expanded greatly since last month: www.bordc.org

Attorney General John Ashcroft is continuing to defend the act to a more organized and vocal contingent of critics. Aside from the heartening community resolutions, the most significant illustrations of resistance against the laws have taken form in our houses of Congress in Washington, DC. Support of these new bills crosses party lines.

Two bills have been introduced, one in the House and one in the Senate, to strip the Patriot Act of key provisions critics say take the federal government's powers too far. The Safety and Freedom Ensured (SAFE) Act was introduced by Republican Senator Larry Craig (ID) and Democratic Sen. Richard Durbin (IL) on October 15th. The bill permanently narrows the hot-button sneak and peak provision in the bill, which allows federal agents to search Americans homes without notifying them for an indeterminate period.

Also in section 215, it would preclude investigative fishing expeditions by requiring some individualized suspicion that the targets of the order have some connection to a foreign government or organization. The other bill, called the Benjamin Franklin True Patriot Act, was introduced by Congressmen Dennis Kucinich (D-OH) and Jim McDermott (D-WA), along with 19 other members of the House on September 24th. This bill would repeal sections of the act that authorize sneak and peek searches, searches of library, medical, and financial records without judicial warrant and detention, and deportation of non-citizens without careful judicial review. It would also cement the fundamental right of attorney-client privilege and restore transparency to Department of Justice and Department of Homeland Security administrative procedures by revoking FOIA secrecy orders, repealing provisions harmful to the rights of immigrants.

On October 7th, the Detroit News reported the Justice Department had asked a federal judge to dismiss a lawsuit challenging a controversial section of the Patriot Act. The lawsuit was brought forth by the ACLU against Section 215 of the Patriot Act – a section that grants the FBI the ability to seek records from a library, business or person by seeking a warrant from the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court. In last month's column, I wrote about the Justice Department's pre-emptive disclosure that the government had claimed that it never used its authority under Section 215.

In late September, the New York Times ran an extensive article describing how the Bush Administration had begun using the law with increasing frequency in many criminal investigations that have little or no connection to terrorism. The article by Eric Lichtblau goes on to say:

"The government is using its expanded authority under the far-reaching law to investigate suspected drug traffickers, white-collar criminals, blackmailers, child pornographers, money launderers, spies and even corrupt foreign leaders, federal officials said . . . Publicly, Attorney General John Ashcroft and senior Justice Department officials have portrayed their expanded power almost exclusively as a means of fighting terrorists, with little or no mention of other criminal uses. "We have used these tools to prevent terrorists from unleashing more death and destruction on our soil," Mr. Ashcroft said last month in a speech in Washington, one of more than two dozen he has given in defense of the law, which has come under growing attack. "We have used these tools to save innocent American lives."

How convenient it is then, that the FBI cited a provision of the Patriot Act in ordering journalists to secretly prepare to turn over their notes, emails and sources to the bureau in an effort to investigate and prosecute a suspected hacker (http://www.theregister.co.uk/content/55/33106.html).

In the entertainment world, a new album by singer-songwriter Rickie Lee Jones called "The Evening of My Best Day" contains a song called "Tell Somebody (Repeal the Patriot Act NOW)". It includes the lyrics:

Now they want us to just get in line behind a president, when you know they spent millions of dollars condemning and accusing the last one from the other side.

Tell somebody, tell somebody, tell somebody what's happening in the USA.

I want to know how far you will go to protect our right of free speech? Because it only took a moment before it faded out of reach.

In other media, a few new books have been published about the Patriot Act and resistance to it. The New Press out of NYC has published a series of essays and in-depth articles edited by Cynthia Brown called "Lost Liberties: Ashcroft and the Assault on Personal Freedom". The essays are deep and thorough and cover subjects such as the historical build-up of repressive laws like the Patriot Act and how history has allowed this to happen repeatedly. Another essay goes into how these laws affect the lives of Americans and how some of them are fighting back by passing resolutions in municipalities to challenging sections of the law in court. I highly recommend this title to anyone wanting detailed information on the Patriot Act – it contains extensive footnotes.

Another book, by Nat Hentoff, is called "The War on the Bill of Rights and the Gathering Resistance". I haven't read this book but it comes highly recommended. One synopsis from powells.com reads:

"...Village Voice mainstay, Nat Hentoff, draws on untapped sources—from reporters, resisters, and civil liberties law professors across the country to administration insiders—to piece together the true dimensions of the current assault on the Constitution and the Bill of Rights... Hentoff quotes Lance Morrow, who wrote, 'If Americans win a war (not just against Saddam Hussein but the longer-term struggle) and lose the Constitution, they will have lost everything.'"

A few websites I wanted to mention contain great updates with news about the Patriot Act and the uprising against it. One is called Civil Liberties Watch by Elaine Cassel, who writes for the Minneapolis Twin Cities City Paper (http://babelogue.citypages.com:8080/ecassel/). Cassel's site takes the form of a blog, so all previous posts are viewable if you keep scrolling down the page. The quality of information from her site is unique and a must-click for those wanting new and unheard information on the Patriot Act.

Those linking to Cassel's site may also want to check out the Buffalo Report by author Bruce Jackson (http://www.buffaloreport.com/). This site contains articles on other related subjects, but his articles and brief stories related to civil liberties and the defense of the Bill of Rights is excellent.

If you have any information about the Patriot Act or organizing against it, please send it to me at

hrstruggle@comcast.net.

"Now they want us to just get in line behind a president , when you know they spent millions of dollars condemning and accusing the last one from the other side."

Doug Honig contributed to this article.

NOTE: In preparing this column for the November Works in Progress, I came across an extremely positive phenomenon. There were way too many pieces of news about people and organizations fighting back against the Patriot Act than I could include in my column due to space limitations. If I don't mention something you, the reader, think is significant, let me know. I try to prioritize what I find and would love any input and/or feedback. - HPR

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Report From PJSA Conference

FOSTERING ALTERNATIVES TO VIOLENCE

candio

The Second Annual Conference of the Peace and Justice Studies Association [PJSA] took place October 9-12 in Olympia, Washington at The Evergreen State College [TESC]. °The mission of the PJSA is promotion of peace studies for all ages – from pre-kindergarten to university level and beyond. °Their work is based on forging alliances between peace practitioners, participating in wider activities of 'education, research and action' and discovering 'innovative solutions to violence whether it manifests itself in our home, schools, streets and/or foreign policy.'

The title of the event, 'Fostering Alternatives to Violence,' was deeply felt by the participants whose talk frequently turned to the post-September 11th world, the Bush administration and the conflicts in Iraq and the Occupied Territories [OT]. International educators, students, artists and activists joined to discuss progress and problems within the movement, challenges in politics and policy and the rampant resurgence of war and militarism.

REMEMBERING RACHEL CORRIE

Another subject on many minds was the legacy of Rachel Aliene Corrie, the Olympia native crushed to death in Rafah in Occupied Gaza on March 16th. Her influence was undeniable, her spirit never far away as she was talked about, given tribute to and physically present as her parents, Craig and Cindy Corrie, joined in several events.

Many conference organizers and participants had personally known or worked with Rachel and had been touched by her. Rachel's name and image was invoked out of a collective pride and grief that was homegrown, as opposed to the government and media manufactured story of Jessica Lynch.

LIVE FROM RAFAH

There was a direct physical connection to the city of Rafah as well during the conference. Over the weekend, the Israeli Defense Forces [IDF] raided Rafah with 80 tanks along with armored bulldozers and Apache gun ships. °In a disproportionate show of force codenamed Operation Root Canal, the military sealed Rafah off in all directions, initiating strict curfew while commandeering and illegally demolishing over 100 Palestinian homes.

News of the incursion and the subsequent destruction filtered through the conference. Saturday afternoon, during the speech by Naomi Klein, Craig Corrie and Emma Pearlman [of the Olympia-Rafah Sister City Project [ORSCP]] were in the PJSA offices live on the phone with friends in Rafah. Dr. Simona Sharoni, Executive Director of the PJSA, interrupting the conference, said 'These things happen all of the time – they just don't happen as we are gathered and in near real time as we get eyewitness reports.

Craig was shaken as he updated the audience with news of the devastation; he had been in Rafah just weeks before when the Corries had visited Israel and the OT to learn more about Rachel's experiences.

Craig Corrie spoke of hearing the fear in his new Palestinian friend's voice, a man he said was not easily upset. Craig described the unending sound of the bullets in the background of their conversation. He also sadly informed the audience that Raja Salah Omer, the medic who had taken Rachel to the hospital, had come under fire and was seriously injured. They had also befriended this man in their travels.

Emma spoke of the difficulty obtaining medical help for the injured; they were not being allowed to leave Rafah under any circumstances and there weren't adequate resources to care for them. Emma reported on the lack of electricity and water, and that ISM member Laura Gordon was engaged in work to get water and power restored.

OLYMPIA'S SISTER CITY

°The Olympia-Rafah Sister City Project, envisioned by Rachel Corrie, has fast become a reality because of the hard work of a small group of dedicated residents. The mission of the project is to 'actively promote and foster friendships between the people of Olympia, Washington, and Rafah, Palestine, for the purpose of strengthening cross-cultural awareness and understanding, international cooperation, justice and peace.

The point of ORSCP is to make the conflict human, intimate, not just a foreign policy in a distant land. °This person-to-person activism is key to raising awareness in the United States of the situation in Palestine, as the picture from the people on the ground is quite at odds with the portrayal of the situation by the mainstream media.

BLOOD IS BLINDING

Naomi Klein, author of *No Logo* and *Fences and Windows: Dispatches From the Front Line in the Globalization Debate,* received a standing ovation for her talk on the privatization of Iraq. Speaking to Olympia directly, Ms. Klein spoke of Rachel Corrie and her popularity in Argentina, where Ms. Klein has been on location working on a film project. She said that the people there consider Rachel to be a 'hero' and 'a martyr of the movement.'

She focused on Rachel to illustrate her point that activists should try to 'not be blinded by the blood' because 'blood is blinding.' Ms. Klein explained that we must not forget the fundamentals, the 'softer' issues and root causes.

Rachel was in Gaza to protest the brutality of the occupation, but two of her goals were protecting the water supply and building a pen pal program between the children of Rafah and Olympia. She did not completely turn from the mental and physical traumas of war; after all, she died on the front line. The point was that she was also interested in the less sensationalistic stories of connecting children and curtailing economic domination.

DISPATCHES: THE KILLING ZONE

The British documentary, ' Dispatches: The Killing Zone', depicts the aftermath of Rachel's killing, the subsequent injury to ISM peacemaker Tom Hurndall and the murder of British cameraman James Miller - all by the IDF. This documentary is rarely shown in the US but has gained grassroots person-to-person distribution in the Northwest. This showing was special as it was hosted by Rachel Corrie's parents along with Will Hewitt, an Olympian who was on the ground with Rachel in Rafah. Emma Pearlman also gave photo presentations of her recent trip, which occurred during the relative peace of the hudna.

The Killing Zone is haunting and disturbing work that doesn't flinch in showing the trauma of war. The intimacy is unsparing as you watch a Palestinian girl awake from unconsciousness to find out she is blind or the tension in the hospital as Tom Hurndall's friends fight to get him the medical care that might save his life. The ambulance wants a written guarantee from the British embassy that it will not be fired upon; the medics fear risking their lives for a patient whose brain is exposed and is not likely to live.

In other scenes the sound of the gunfire in the background of the interviews is like popcorn, relentless, persistent. Reporter Sandra Jordan comes under fire and tear gas while shooting Rachel Corrie's memorial and, while visiting a school, a tank shell blast is felt. °She was at the school to investigate the death of a girl who the IDF recently shot in the head as she sat at her desk. Her mother shows Sandra the bullet hole in the girl's bloodied headscarf.

Ms. Jordan interviews an IDF spokeswoman who suggests Rachel Corrie was killed by a falling slab of concrete, and it is shocking to hear such a blatant lie. The explanations for other deadly events are just as at odds with eyewitness accounts as this one. 'People get in the line of bullets.

CORRIES THREATENED IN RAFAH

In his talk before the film, Will Hewitt stressed to the audience that this conflict should not be viewed as a distant affair that holds little concern for Americans but that this occupation is being made possible only because of American aid. He made note of the economic benefits that accrue to US companies that supply the IDF with weapons and technology that are used daily against Palestinians.

After the film, Craig Corrie reiterated that connection, expressing dismay that despite his tax dollars funding Israel, the Corries were stonewalled by their own government as they pressed for truth and justice on Rachel's behalf. He noted that individuals he had met had shown them 'much respect' and had been quite 'sympathetic, but powerless' to help; they did not have the authority or resources to take further legal or diplomatic action. He has not yet received a full, unedited report on Rachel's death and, furthermore, has found 'problems with sourcing and inaccuracies' in the materials he has reviewed.

Regarding their trip to Israel and the OT, Craig spoke of the people who took a 'career risk at the State Department to get them in.' He said that they received 'incredible privilege' on their journey and that they had direct phone numbers for officials in the IDF. Incredibly, despite this special treatment, while visiting the house Rachel was saving from demolition, bulldozers and armored personnel carriers approached the home and stationed themselves nearby in a threatening manner for the duration of the Corrie's visit.

The film's attendees also received an update on the medical status of Tom Hurndall. He has never regained consciousness and his parents plan to remove him from life support in the near future. They have promised to keep the community informed and plan for international memorials to be held 48 hours after his death.

SHA'HIID MEMORIAL

A tangible reminder of Rachel Corrie is the room-sized memorial in a corner meeting area in the Library Building on the TESC campus. This tribute is a shrine for the community to show its love and respect, and has evolved as visitors add to it - photos, writings, artwork, candles, origami peace doves.

There are donated photographs of Rachel from baby to punk rocker, dance diva to teacher. Someone has made color copies of Rachel's Palestinian sha'hiid [martyr] posters. There is the news article when Rachel, as a 5th grade schoolgirl, worked on a campaign for children's rights and gave a presentation before the Washington State legislature.

Educational materials on Rachel, the occupation, ISM and ORSCP fill a literature display rack. Fresh flowers are placed in several places. A dove costume and other dove artwork and ephemera from the Procession of the Species parade are displayed. Baskets hold papers bearing messages to Rachel and there is a lovely blank book for visitors to read and contribute to.

There is a moving display of artwork done by local children on the first anniversary of September 11th. Rachel had led the group in peace and tolerance activities. Underneath this grouping of art is another group of pictures by the same children, expressing their grief when they learned Rachel had died.

(continued page 8)

Providence St. Peter Hospital Technicians' Campaign for a Voice

Cy Berryman

In Washington and around the country, health care workers are joining together in unions to gain a stronger voice about decisions that affect the quality of care they deliver.

In August 2003, employees at Providence St. Peter Hospital in Olympia who work in technical job classifications, including radiology technicians and respiratory therapists, submitted signatures from over 65 percent of their colleagues to the National Labor Relations Board to request that an election be held for them to form a union.

An election was scheduled for October 29 for employees to decide whether to form a union with Service Employees International Union District 1199NW, a union of more than 17,000 health care workers in Washington State. This election will likely be delayed because of Providence St. Peter's use of egregious unfair labor practice in violation of the law.

An Abuse of Power: Providence's Campaign Against Employees

Providence managers immediately sought to interfere with the election process and began pressuring employees to oppose the union.

Illegal threats of pay cuts.

Providence managers have threatened employees with loss of pay if they form a union.

In forming their union technical workers would be able to negotiate their own wages, benefits and working conditions. The technicians who are organizing have falsely been told that if they organize a union there will be no negotiations for a contract. In one-on-one meetings between employees and supervisors, Providence managers mislead employees, warning them that they will lose current benefits and pay if they form a union.

While it is illegal for an employer to misinform workers about the consequences of forming a union this way, the penalties for breaking the law are light. In this case Providence appears to be willing to ignore the law.

In trainings, supervisors are instructed to hold direct meetings with subordinate employees to pressure them to oppose forming a union.

"Providence managers have threatened employees with loss of pay if they form a union."

Direct supervisors—who control an employees' schedule, salary, and career advancement—have been encouraged to create tension and question the dedication of employees who favor organizing a union.

Managers passed out literature attacking the values of certain employees who favored forming a union, implying that employees who wanted an independent voice were not dedicated employees.

"The hospital in our community needs to be accountable to basic standards of fairness and justice for working people."

Putting patients last.

Employees have consistently been pulled away from their patient care duties to hear Providence's anti-union message during paid work-time meetings. Employees have even had their whole departments shut down so that all staff may attend an anti-union meeting with Scott Bond, the CEO of the hospital.

What can be done?

The hospital in our community needs to be accountable to basic standards of fairness and justice for working people. To ensure that Olympia's community caregivers have the right to make their own decision about whether to form a union—without unfair interference from management—a group of community leaders are joining together to monitor the election process at Providence St. Peter Hospital.

If necessary, an independent investigation will be conducted in order to issue a public report to keep the wider community informed about how our community's caregivers are treated in our local hospital.

"While we are proud of the kind of quality patient care that we give each day, there are times when chronic understaffing limits our ability to care for our patients in the way we would like. Since we began organizing our union at St. Pete's, management has brought people into their offices for one-one meetings and they tell us that we will lose some of the benefits we have known. They have created an atmosphere of distrust and hostility. We just want to serve our patients and community. We have tried to make improvements on our own, but realize that the only way to truly make improvements is to join together with our co-workers to speak with one unified voice."

—Linda Wolfe, X-Ray Technologist, Providence St. Peter

(PJSA Conference, continued)

WHEELS OF JUSTICE

On Friday night there was a tribute to 'our beloved community activist' that featured members of ORSCP, ISM Olympia and the Wheels of Justice [WOJ] national bus tour.

WOJ's mission is 'to build upon and reassert the massive domestic opposition to the war in Iraq and the occupation of the Palestinians' and do 'education, outreach, nonviolence/action training, active resistance and community-building.' The tour includes members from ISM, Voices in the Wilderness, Palestine Right to Return Coalition and the Middle East Children's Alliance.

The four Olympians present from ORSCP/ISM had all traveled to the Israel/OT in 2003 and have been eager to share their experience with their community in words, works and art.

Ms. Pearlman and Mr. Hewitt were joined by Lucas Claussen and Sam Tsohonis, who was shot in the leg by the IDF on July 28th while protesting the apartheid wall near Anin, West Bank, OT. Sam is an artist/activist who was deeply inspired by Rachel Corrie and sought financial backing from the community to enable his travels. In recent months Olympia has contributed moral support and travel expenses for several ISM volunteers.

OUR SISTER CITY IS BEING INVADED

A postscript to the conference, quickly organized by ORSCP in two days, was a 6 hour convergence on October 14th in downtown Olympia to protest the invasion of Rafah. The goal of the event was education and outreach and was, by many measures, quite successful. The next day the Olympian newspaper gave the event front page, above the fold coverage, the headline reading 'Standing With a City Under Siege.

A large banner read "Olympia's Sister City is Under Attack' and other signs stressed the effects of the illegal home demolitions, the 1500 left homeless and the funding of these abuses by US tax dollars. Thousands of cars passed by, those expressing support far outnumbering those who shouted criticism.

Pedestrians engaged in conversation with activists and took the materials the ORSCP provided, including sets of troubling, yet beautiful, photographic postcards explaining the project's mission and work. The group gained at least another sheet of names to add to their mailing list.

Craig and Cindy Corrie lent support, both speaking and standing in solidarity. *The Olympian* quoted the Corries extensively in their article as they talked about Rachel, human rights in Palestine, suicide bombers and US policy. As Craig again talked of being on the phone with friends, the bullets again constant in the background, the Olympian reported, The conversation left Corrie feeling more powerless, but his friend felt a lift just knowing that people in the United States were watching and paying attention.

This convergence was a genuine display of commitment and energy from the activists who were willing to drop everything and take the time to really care about the people in Rafah, to not be blinded by the blood.

It was another effort to not treat the conflict in abstract terms but to connect with people as individuals as opposed to wartime statistics. This effort at humanism works, and is why Olympia has grown such warm feelings for the people in Rafah. Visitors have all been met with great respect, warmth and kindness when in Gaza, so those feelings are returned to Rafah.

There is a trust in the witness when she is a member of the community, the truth coming from her mouth is more tangible, more valid than the truth in the typical news cycle. Her words may not be agenda free, obviously she cares deeply about her cause but she is earnest and, most importantly, she is not lying about what she has seen. She can prove it with her photos. It makes the pain of a house demolition a bit more real when you have even the smallest personal connection, even secondary, to the occupants.

This is the ultimate goal of all of the actions that were engaged in this week in Olympia, to make a difference in world affairs, to be a part of the best of what America can be, not the worst. °In the first days after September 11th there was tremendous good will expressed to the United States by the world community. The Bush administration squandered that feeling, so it is now the mission of the people in the US peace community to win it back by letting the world know that they are awake, aware and taking action.

candio is a writer/artist/activist who lives in Olympia, WA. She is from back east and has written for many alternative presses and arts newspapers. °Her art has been found in galleries, museums, international collections and sometimes on the street. She is currently home schooling for her PhD by writing a book about trauma related illness and recovery.

Contact: candy@candio.com
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Elections in Guatemala: A Hopeful Impression

Matt Ford

From the diverse and enchanting landscapes that stretch over the contours of Guatemala, trees reach towards the sky, trunks bearing spray-painted initials, FRG, UNE, PAN. Meanwhile, towering billboards do the same, advertising daunting portraits of candidates trying to offer their best grandpa-like smile to win the affection of their fellow Guatemalans.

"this year, perhaps for the first time in half a century, a truly revolutionary party has the chance to change…the course of Guatemala through electoral means."

The television and radio programs are littered with commercials and jingles, and each day several articles and op/ed pieces appear in the major daily papers following the campaign trails of various candidates, debating the issues, and sometimes, of course, justifying what appears to be fascism.

On November 9th, Guatemala will hold elections at the national and local level, including presidential elections. And of course we can expect the usual thuggery, intimidation, and corruption that have unfortunately come to define the "democratic" political systems of much of Central America.

However, this year, perhaps for the first time in half a century, a truly revolutionary party has the chance to change, or begin to change, the course of Guatemala through electoral means. The Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) is running Rodrigo Asturías, the son of world famous, Nobel Prize-winning author and novelist Miguel Angel Asturías, as their presidential candidate, as well as several local, regional, and national candidates.

Very early in the sixties Asturías became involved in armed revolutionary struggle in response to a US sponsored coup against the democratically elected, "spiritual socialist" administration of Jacobo Arbenz Guzmán in 1954.[o] Within a span of a few short years, with the help of the US and several mega-corporations, most notably United Fruit, the Guatemalan elite were able to dismantle even any pretexts of social progress, plunging the country into 36 years of civil war, which took as many as 200,000 lives.

The URNG was formed in 1982 after three armed groups and one political organization unified to form a revolutionary movement in response to extreme forms of repression against the civilian population that had been escalating for many years.[o] By the time the group was formed, the Guatemalan military and Civil Self-Defense Patrols (PACs) were carrying out a policy of "tierra arrasada," or scorched earth, under coup leader General Efraín Rios Montt in which thousands were killed and many villages and indigenous people were "disappeared" in less than two years of extreme violence.

The following 14 years of armed struggle for indigenous rights, equity, and social justice culminated in the adoption of peace accords in 1996 that have been virtually ignored do the massive amount of corruption and incompetence within successive administrations.[o] Subsequently, the URNG became a legitimate political party and currently holds seats in the Congress and at local levels.

"for many of us here in the US this type of discussion concerning electoral politics in Central America means nothing"

Unfortunately, do to lack of adequate funding to compete with the wealthy candidates, who are snatching up advertising time and writing checks to build support, a victory for the URNG in the presidential elections seems unlikely.[o] But, there appears to be tremendous support and hope amongst many radical Guatemalans for the URNG, especially at the local level.

Yet, this hope is mixed with fear. Right now, Berger, the candidate for the right-wing Gana party, and the right-wing Colon, of the (semi-left-wing) UNE party have the "most support" according to polls in Prensa Libre and other major media outlets in Guatemala. There is also fear amongst many that the 77-year-old head of Congress Rios Montt may bribe and intimidate his way to victory.

As you may remember, during July Rios Montt, with the help of masked thugs looting and destroying parts of the capital (in what came to be known as Black Thursday throughout Guatemala) and the Supreme Court of Justice, was able to slither around a constitutional amendment that prevents former coup leaders from running for president. Since, then Rios Montt has been traveling the countryside, no doubt bribing the poorest of Guatemala and organizing gangs of thugs for Election Day, in hopes of regaining control of Guatemala.

Newspapers and radio programs have been filled with opinions expressing and relating outrage (and sometimes support) as Rios Montt travels to Ixtcan and other sites of the massacres carried during his "scorched earth" campaign.

The Meaning of Elections in Guatemala

Unfortunately, for many of us here in the US this type of discussion concerning electoral politics in Central America means nothing, as all pretenses of democracy have become no more than farcical delusions. And meanwhile, the hope that drove the activism and support of Revolutionary movements throughout Central America during the 80's has faded away. But, for many Guatemalans these elections have become the main manifestation of revolutionary struggle, a response to the years of brutal, unthinkable repression, and an avenue by which many hope and expect to transform and move the society in a positive direction.

Of course, this manifestation must be seen as the outcome of an historical process that has included over five hundred years of colonial exploitation, in the forms of direct internal control and external influence and the forms of resistance that have developed in response.

But, for a country with 60 % of the population living in destitute poverty and 29% living on less than one US dollar per day it is more important now than ever that truly revolutionary movements toward social justice emerge.[o] And likewise, it becomes the responsibility of us in the North, who, from the supermarkets to the gas stations, reap the benefits of this exploitation, to continue to recognize and support these revolutionary struggles in all their manifestations, from worker-controlled factories to the ballot box.

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(Our Future, continued)

Values and beliefs:

* I approach this jail issue from the standpoint of my values and beliefs:
* I believe that every person has inherent human value.
* I believe that every human being has the potential to grow and become better. This includes people who make mistakes in their behavior and people who are vulnerable because of poverty or disability.
* I want to live in a society that treats all people with compassion.
* I believe that the ways a society deals with human problems indicate that society's level of civilization and democracy.
* I believe that our current system of "justice" is perfunctory, impersonal, bureaucratic, and alienating. Instead, we should focus on serving people and restoring right relationships. This would provide true justice for individuals and society as a whole.
* I want to solve problems, not just apply expensive band-aids or hide the problems out of sight.
* I believe that prevention works better than punishment, and prevention costs less than punishment.
* I am concerned that a gigantic new jail will fail to solve the problems that it purports to solve.
* I am concerned that building and operating a gigantic new jail will take money away from solving the root problems that cause people to be jailed.
* I believe that we could create better alternatives to the current jail proposal – and that we could actually choose a better future.

Questioning the need for a bigger jail:

Certainly our county jail is overcrowded. We do need to reduce overcrowding. The question is how to do it. Should we keep building bigger and bigger jails forever, or should we pursue more humane and cost-effective alternatives?

The Multnomah County Jail (Portland OR) found that over a 5-year period, 23% of the bookings were for only 4% of the individuals. We should look for the common characteristics and recognize the recurring problems and unmet needs. We should help these individuals meet their needs and solve their underlying problems, so they don't keep cycling through the system and using up the resources.

Sentencing:

Several laws and policies are driving the increase in incarceration at local jails and state prisons. These include punitive drug laws, "Three Strikes" laws, mandatory minimum sentences for various crimes, and other laws restricting judges' discretion to practice leniency.

Several kinds of crimes (e.g., drunk driving and domestic violence) require jail time. The public does not realize how inappropriate – and expensive – some of these sentences are. Legally required jail time and long sentences are like "entitlement" programs that hard-wire the system in very expensive ways.

The county produced a report to justify the need for a gigantic jail. The report says that during the past decade Thurston County's population increased 28% but our jail population increased 109% — almost four times as fast. Instead of building bigger and bigger jails, shouldn't we manage merely the causes more intelligently? Can't we rethink alternative solutions?

The report's introduction says: "Inmates are being released prematurely." A baby needs nine months and is "premature" if it is born before it is fully developed. But jail sentences are not based on scientific requirements. Jail sentences are arbitrary. Sentencing laws are largely based on politics and public whim. (An individual's sentence also depends on your economic and social status and the quality of your attorney.)

The report admits that we jail a lot of repeat offenders. Instead of building a gigantic jail, let's find out what the underlying problems are, and solve them.

What are jails for?

We use jails and prisons for inappropriate purposes. Conservative politicians and anti-tax voters have shredded the social safety net, so the police and jails get stuck dealing with a lot of social problems. For example, we shunt people toward jails for circumstances and behaviors that would be better addressed by social service programs, let alone an overall commitment to social justice.

If you have a place to live, you can be in a bad mood – or even get drunk – in the privacy of your own home. But if you're homeless, your "living room" is in full public view, so you're vulnerable to arrest for behaviors the rest of us can do at home. If you're homeless but no toilets are available, you'll go where you can. The solution is not to jail people, but rather to help people meet their needs without involving the police and courts.

Many people go to jail for making bad decisions. But jail does not teach them to make better decisions. Instead of just punishing them, let's help them make better choices and get their lives back on track. We need thoughtful, person-centered approaches. Jail is profoundly disempowering. When we take away people's ability to make decisions, we damage their human dignity. When human dignity is continuously denied, it can atrophy like an unused muscle. When people become dysfunctional and alienated, society and democracy are undermined. On the other hand, alternatives to incarceration not only help individuals but also build a healthier society and stronger democracy overall.

At the moment when any person would typically be headed for jail, the police and other responsible folks should be asking: "What does this person really need? What is the real problem" Jail should be the very last resort, not the default catch-all.

It's expensive!

Nationwide, since the mid-1970s funding for mental health services have been slashed. Many people who need mental health services end up in jail because our society fails to provide adequate treatment. Taxpayers think they save a little money by not funding mental health services, but they actually pay much more for police, courts, jails, and the social and economic disruption of families and communities.

If state and local governments think we can afford more jails and prisons, why do they keep telling us that we can't afford mental health services, housing programs, and other social services to keep people out of jail in the first place?

Over the past decade, prison systems have been the fastest growing parts of state governments.

About 70% of Thurston County's budget already is spent on the criminal justice system. Paying an additional $100 million to build a gigantic jail and millions every year to operate it will divert even more money from proactive approaches and real solutions.

Jailing people instead of solving their problems is throwing money down a hole. Building a bigger jail only creates a bigger hole to throw our money down.

Conservatives who denounce "throwing money at big government programs that don't work" are right on both points regarding jails: (1) Jails and prisons consume giant portions of governmental budgets; and (2) The recidivism rate shows that jails and prisons don't solve the problems.

The cycle will continue until the public demands a change of priorities.

Better solutions:

Drugs should be treated as a public health issue, not a criminal issue. Marijuana and some other drugs cause far fewer problems than alcohol does, so our society and laws should be able to deal with them in ways similar to how we deal with alcohol.

To address the problems well, however, we really must ask what it is about our society that causes so many people to turn to drugs – and then deal with those realities.

The Drug Court seems to be a good success. Perhaps we could use that model for other recurring problems.

Mental health solutions are being promoted by the local chapter of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI). A Mental Health Court would allow compassion and specialized expertise to have more weight in dealing with some cases. The Mental Health Court's judges and prosecutors would get special training to better understand the diseases and treatments. They would become familiar with the individuals and could devise appropriate solutions.

A Triage Center also would distinguish the situations that are really mental health problems rather than typical criminal problems, and deal with the people appropriately.

Professionals and clients in various other fields – substance abuse, housing, anger management, etc. –already know the problems and can recommend wise solutions.

Restorative Justice is a wise and compassionate alternative that makes sense in many situations. Whereas the regular criminal justice system focuses on catching and punishing bad guys, Restorative Justice is more holistic, compassionate and effective. Restorative Justice looks at who is hurting and what they need. It serves victims and helps to rehabilitate offenders. It empowers both, repairs the damage, and restores human relationships within the community. Bend, Oregon, and many places in Canada use it successfully. Some communities use it to reduce incarceration.

Prevention:

We need to prevent crime and social problems, not just lock people up after the fact. Practical solutions include:

* Teach adults and youths how to resolve conflicts without using violence.
* Do more to prevent domestic violence.
* Teach better parenting skills.
* Teach nonviolent conflict resolution skills in schools.

* Provide enough social workers in schools and other settings
* Offer free and readily available services for mental health and drug treatment
* Provide enough good low-income housing
* Teach literacy and other basic skills for effective functioning
* Provide job training and jobs to all who want them
* Promote nonviolent values and skills throughout our culture and society

Unless we start now on real prevention and long-term solutions, we'll fill up the new jail too within a few years.

Thurston County and the City of Olympia have instituted some good programs in recent years. Reducing overcrowding now will require them to do even more.

Perhaps some programs and alternatives that were not cost-effective before will be cost-effective now – if the alternative is spending $100 million on a huge jail. We ran into an analogous situation some years ago when we found that nuclear power plants were so expensive. We found it more cost-effective to invest resources in energy conservation programs and even to give away insulation for free. When we look at the cost of building and operating jails and prisons, we will certainly find that social service programs are more cost-effective.

Conservatives like to denounce "throwing money at big government programs that don't work." Let's talk with our conservative friends and help them realize that jails and prisons are prime examples in state and local governments! We should be able to enlist conservatives in seeking more cost-effective solutions. Here is an opportunity for "bleeding-heart" liberals and progressives to join in coalition with fiscal conservatives to create real solutions!

Let's not fall for vague promises of social services later. The only way we'll get them is to guarantee adequate funding for these alternatives now – before building a new jail. Otherwise the jail will soak up all the money and attention, and the alternatives will be stillborn.

Public involvement:

I don't accept the assumption that the current jail proposal is a "done deal" – even now in late 2003. The issues related to the jail are hot issues that require information and intelligent discussion. Whatever decisions we make now will persist for decades! Let's take care to make the wisest and best possible decisions.

One of the most troubling aspects of this jail fiasco is that it was cooked up by government officials with almost no attempt for meaningful public involvement. Then in December 2002 a presentation at the L&I building was designed for the county to tell us what their plan was – not to allow public input.

The classic book "Getting to Yes" urges people to negotiate based on interests – what we really want – not on rigid positions. The jail controversy is the immediate symptom of deeper concerns that Thurston County's citizens should discuss thoughtfully and open-mindedly.

Instead of rushing ahead to build a gigantic jail, Thurston County, the city jurisdictions, the media, the various groups and organizations that form our civil society, and large numbers of ordinary citizens should create community-wide discussions that will open up the larger vision and explore what we really want to achieve. When everybody is part of the process, everybody can work together to create the solutions. This should guide our long-range planning as well as our immediate need to reduce overcrowding.

These community-wide discussions should:

* Create a serious public discussion of how to actually solve the problems that a gigantic new jail purports to address. (For example, how could we relieve overcrowding and protect public safety and meet the needs of people who would otherwise be sent to jail?)
* Look at the problems in a whole systems way, including public safety, public health, economic justice, and principles of democracy and sustainability.
* Widen the scope beyond things we can quantify. Consider intangible "quality of life" issues, such as envisioning the kind of a society do we want to live in.
* Identify issues that need to be worked on at larger levels. (For example, some laws, sentencing procedures, and other factors would need to be addressed at state and national levels.)

These community-wide discussions should be carefully designed to be democratic, substantive, creative and credible. They should be facilitated to invite broad and meaningful participation. They should generate results that will strongly influence public policy, including local government programs and budgets.

If the local governments won't solicit public involvement, we'll have to organize it anyway. Let's involve the broad community and appropriate advocacy groups in meaningful ways, not just to rubber-stamp their scheme. Let's help the public actively think and choose the future we want, not just passively accept decisions from on high.

We must demand the right to choose our future! We can either allow gigantic jails to dominate our future, or we can choose something better.

(Re-elect Ware, continued)

recently sanctioned by the council after a verbal altercation with council member Jeanette Hawkins. The council passed a resolution regarding Green's behavior and requested an investigation of the incident. The council, including Green, unanimously agreed to remain silent on the issue until the conclusion of the investigation, reportedly to protect the privacy of all involved.

Green, who has been at the center of the controversy, remains one of Ware's strongest supporters. "Laura is a wonderful councilmember and friend. I was disappointed when she voted for the resolution against me, but I also know how much pressure was brought against her. I need Laura on the council. We all do," said Green, when asked about the council's resolution.

Ware's accomplishments

Laura Ware has worked to improve safety in our neighborhoods, bring sustainable businesses to downtown and provide positive activities for Olympia's youth. She has worked with neighborhoods to reduce the speed of cars and to promote pedestrian and bike traffic. Currently, downtown is suffering because it doesn't have the fiber optic network necessary for high-tech business to expand or locate downtown. Ware initiated a plan to bring fiber optics to downtown. She has been instrumental in helping local youth gain places of their own, where skateboarding is not a crime.

Ware has been a tireless, principled advocate for the people of Olympia. She has been unwavering in her protection of civil rights for all and in her general promotion of a higher level of civic engagement – exactly what democracy is supposed to be about.

We are truly fortunate to have had her in our corner these past eight years and that, once again, she offers up another four years of service to this community.

Please do not make the mistake of taking her candidacy for granted. Get out and vote for Laura Ware on November 4!

For more information about Laura Ware's campaign, visit

www.laurawareforcouncil.com .

Volume 14, Number 7 November 2003 free

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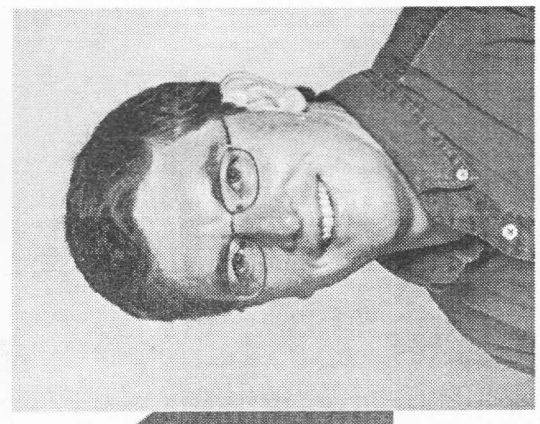

TJ Johnson

Laura Ware

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